

Please replace page 59 line 23 to page 60 line 8 with the following:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 18, 25, 28 and 30 to 40 as being directed to a non-elected invention, without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of any of those claims in a divisional or other appropriate application.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121, please substitute for original claims 23, 24, 81, 83 to 91, 93, the following amended versions of the same claims. Marked-up versions of the amended claims are attached as Appendix 2.

Subj Cxle
23. (Amended) An isolated, purified, or enriched polypeptide comprising at least a fragment of a protein encoded by *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteriophage 44AHJD open reading frame 25, wherein said portion is at least 5 amino acid residues in length.

NC Cxle
24. (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein said polypeptide comprises a fragment at least 10 amino acid residues in length of a said polypeptide normally encoded by said bacteriophage.

Subj Del
81. (Amended) A method of screening for compounds that inhibit an *S. aureus* dnaN product, comprising

contacting together: i) a bacteriophage 44AHJD ORF25 product or a functional fragment thereof; ii) a dnaN product having an interaction with said 44AHJD ORF25 product or said ORF25 functional fragment; and iii) at least one test compound; and

determining whether said at least one test compound reduces the interaction between said dnaN product and said ORF25 product or functional fragment, wherein a reduction in said interaction is indicative that said test compound inhibits said *S. aureus* dnaN product.

Subj 83. (Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said determining comprises measuring the interaction between said dnaN product and said ORF 25 product or functional fragment, wherein said dnaN or ORF25 product or functional fragment is directly labeled.

Subj 84. (Amended) The method of claim 83, wherein said dnaN product comprises an active portion, a mimetic, a corresponding isolated, enriched, or purified protein, or a homologous product of a *S. aureus* dnaN gene.

Subj 85. (Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said dnaN or ORF25 product is indirectly labeled.

Subj 86. (Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said determining comprises measurement by phage display.

Subj 87. (Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said determining comprises measurement by surface plasmon resonance.

88. (Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said determining comprises measurement by Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer.

89. (Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said determining comprises measurement of fluorescence polarization changes.

90. (Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein said determining comprises a scintillation proximity assay.

SWD
C 6
91. (Amended)
assay.

The method of claim 81, wherein said determining comprises a biosensor

Please add the following new claims 111 to 118:

111. (New) The method of claim 81, wherein said bacteriophage 44AHJD ORF25 product has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 99.

112. (New) A method of screening for compounds that inhibit *S. aureus* DNA-directed DNA polymerase III beta subunit protein, comprising:

- contacting: i) a polypeptide having amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 99; ii) a *S. aureus* DNA-directed DNA polymerase III beta subunit protein; and iii) at least one test compound; and

- determining whether said at least one test compound reduces the interaction between said DNA polymerase III beta subunit protein and said polypeptide, wherein a reduction in said interaction is indicative that said test compound inhibits said *S. aureus* DNA-directed DNA polymerase III beta subunit protein.

113. (New) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein said polypeptide comprises a fragment at least 30 amino acid residues in length of a said polypeptide normally encoded by said bacteriophage.

114. (New) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein said polypeptide comprises a fragment at least 50 amino acid residues in length of a said polypeptide normally encoded by said bacteriophage.

115. (New) The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 99.

116. (New) An isolated, purified, or enriched polypeptide having at least 50% identity with amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 99.

117. (New) The polypeptide of claim 116, wherein said identity is of at least 75%.

118. (New) The polypeptide of claim 116, wherein said identity is of at least 95%.